Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00720 021456Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 /093 W
----------130404 021547Z /46
R 021350Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3501
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0720

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PL, IS, GW
SUBJECT: STATUS OF MAJDANEK TRIAL

REF: DUSSELDORF 297

1. LUDWICK BOCK (MANNHEIM), DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP SUPERVISOR HILDEGARD LAECHERT IN THE MAJDANEK TRIAL WAS RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES ON HIS OWN REQUEST BY THE DUSSELDORF DISTRICT COURT. THE COUNSEL LISTED AS REASONS FOR HIS REQUEST HE UNPRECEDENTED MUD-SLINGING CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM IN THE PRESS, ONE MURDER THREAT AND THE DENIAL OF VISAS FOR POLAND AND ISRAEL WHERE THE COURT HEARD WITNESSES, WHICH INHIBITED HIS DISCHARGE OF HIS DEFENSE SOUNSEL DUTIES.

2. THE TRIAL HAS NOW RUN FOR 254 HEARING DAYS IN 29 MONTHS. ALMOST 200 MOSTLY FOREIGN WITNESSES HAVE BEEN HEARD AND ANOTHER 50 WITNESSES OF THE PROSECUTION HAVE YET TO BE HEARD. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE WITNESSES
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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 00720 021456Z

FOR THE DEFENSE; NOBODY EXPECTS AN END OF THE TRIAL PRIOR TO 1980, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE BAG OF TRICKS OF THE DEFENSE COUNSELS TO DELAY THE TRIAL SEEMS TO BE INEXHAUSTIBLE. SO FAR 20,000 PAGES OF FILES AND RECORDS HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED.

3. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRITICISM ABOUT THE LONG-WINDED

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TRIAL IS INCREASING. THE ISRAEL MINISTER OF JUSTICE CALLED UPON THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES TO SPEED-UP THE TRIAL. SHARP CRITICISM ALSO CAME FROM THE GERMN-ISRAELI SOCIETY AND THE SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH COOPERATION. AT A MASS RALLY IN COLOGNE ON APRIL 22, 1978, 15,000 FORMER NAZI VICTIMS PROTESTED AGAINST THE ALLEGED DEALYING TACTICS OF THE DEFENSE COUNSELS.

4. THERE IS NO REASONABLE HOPE FOR EXPEDITING THE LONGEST TRIAL IN THE HISTORY OF GERMAN JUSTICE. SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT DM 10 MILLION (ABOUT $ 5 MILLION) FOR THE TRIAL, ALMOST 70 PER CENT OF WHICH ACCRUED TO THE 28 MANDATORY DEFENSE COUNSELS.DUX

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Type: TE
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